

The
**THOREAU
SOCIETY
BULLETIN**

BULLETIN FORTY-NINE

FALL, 1954

THOREAU, "SIC VITA", AND HARVARDIANA
by Kenneth Walter Cameron
(Trinity College, Hartford)

Since many of Thoreau's Harvard friends¹ contributed regularly to the Harvard literary magazine, it is possible that his early book reviews² were intended for that periodical, even if not actually submitted.³ The combined numbers 11-12 (July-August, 1837), however, among the "Notices to Correspondents," report that the poem which he had written during violet time (April-May) of the preceding spring had been rejected: "'Sic Vita' and 'Fairy Lake' are declined." If my identification be correct, we have important evidence for dating this celebrated lyric and a reminder that termini for other early and still ungathered poems (perhaps still in the hands of private collectors) may possibly be found in the lists of rejections in Harvardiana. We know, of course, that Thoreau destroyed much of his early poetical work.⁴ "Godfrey of Boulogne," which I date ca. January, 1837, following his reading of Tasso's Jerusalem Delivered (from October 13, 1836, until the end of the Christmas vacation, in January, 1837)⁵ seems to be the earliest to survive. But did he about this time write and destroy a companion piece entitled "The Capture of Jerusalem"? If he did, it, too, was rejected according to the end-paper of the February issue. At all events, "Sic Vita" was much too metaphysical for the editorial staff, which preferred simple poems about simple Indians, sad death beds, tempestuous school rooms and heaving oceans. It had no space for probings of the world within.

1 David Greene Haskins, Charles Hayward, Samuel Tenney Hildreth, Charles W. Rice, James Richardson, John Weiss and Charles S. Wheeler.

2 See my Thoreau Discovers Emerson, N. Y., 1953, on his reading and associations in the Institute of 1770.

3 With one possible exception, the list of papers rejected does not seem to include the titles of his reviews.

4 See Henry S. Canby, Thoreau, Boston, 1939, p. 89.

5 See Thoreau Discovers Emerson, pp. 10-11.

The Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences (W. Stephen Thomas, director) conducted a "Centenary of Walden" exhibition in July and August, illustrating WALDEN with actual specimens of plants and animals mentioned.

HOW SHOULD WE INDEX WALDEN?
by Joseph Jones
(University of Texas, Austin 12, Texas)

During the past summer a group of graduate students at the University of Texas (under the writer's direction) produced a trial index to Walden, 15 pages ditto-graph. This is still in strictly experimental and imperfect form, but it seems usable enough to raise the question of perfecting and publishing it. Most Thoreauvians would likely agree that an index to Walden should be made available. In addition, should certain oft-cited essays be included for the use of teachers and students? If so, which?

There is also the question of numbering. This trial index numbered Walden's paragraphs consecutively, without regard to chapter divisions, on the assumption that repetition of paragraph numbers from chapter to chapter would be unnecessarily confusing. It was the aim of the makers to produce an index that would serve with any standard edition. At some points the numbering is rather arbitrary: e.g., quotations are included as belonging in a paragraph when they might, in the opinion of others, be numbered separately. These and other irregularities could be brought into line to meet whatever appears to be the predominant preference of Thoreau scholars. In general, paragraph numbering appears quite satisfactory -- at least as easy to use as page numbering, and perhaps a bit easier with paragraphs that are shorter than a page (as many of Thoreau's aren't!)

As long as a limited supply is available, copies will be sent to members of the Society requesting them -- under the following conditions: (1) enclosure of 9¢ postage, and (2) agreement to inspect the index and to render, within a reasonable time, a candid critique with suggestions, additions, etc. The numbering system -- the one most probable bone of contention -- is explained and a guide is furnished to enable the user to pencil in the correct numbers ("correct" being taken to mean in conformity with the index). This is a matter of a few minutes' time: write in the paragraph numbers and you're ready to go.

P.S. We might overlook absent-minded omission of the postage, but we'd be very sorry not to have your opinions.
(JJ)

THOREAU SOCIETY BOOKLET #9

We are very happy to be able to distribute with this issue of our bulletin, a new booklet in our series. MR. EMERSON WRITES A LETTER ABOUT WALDEN was edited by Prof. Herbert Faulkner West of Dartmouth College from an unpublished manuscript in the collection of Mr. John Cooley of Pleasantville, New York. We are indebted to the Friends of Dartmouth Library for the privilege of joining with them in the publication of this booklet, five hundred copies of which (with a special imprint) are being distributed to members of our society, the remainder of the impression to the Friends of Dartmouth Library.

THE FRANCIS H. ALLEN PAPERS

Our members will recall with gratitude the kind gift of many letters and papers pertaining to Thoreau by the late Francis H. Allen to the Thoreau Society Archives in the Concord Free Public Library. Recently, his daughter, Mrs. William H. Thompson of Cambridge, Mass., has given to the archives further Thoreau papers from her father's collection. These are now being catalogued. They will be listed in a future issue of the bulletin and deposited in the archives for the future use of Thoreau students.

HELP WANTED.

Mr. Raymond Gozzi, 250 Prospect Ave., Mt. Vernon, N.Y., is making a study of HDT and asks help in answering these questions:

(1) Thoreau's poem "Love" states, "We two that planets erst had been / are now a double star." Who are the two?

(2) Is there a copy available anywhere of the essay "Walking" in its first (1851) form?

(3) Journal for Aug. 31, 1856 states, "There sits one by the shore who wishes to go with me, but I cannot think of it." Who is the someone?

(4) Journal for Jan. 11, 1857. T. speaks of going to a club meeting--12 men--he found it a waste of time. What club was this?

(5) Journal. Feb. 8, 1857. "And now another friendship is ended." To whom does this refer?

(6) What was the exact date for the beginning of T's father's last illness?

(7) Journal for March 27, 1856. "I think to say to my friend, There is but one interval between us. You are on one side of it, I on the other." Is the friend Emerson?

(8) Journal for June 15, 1856. "Mrs. Brown reads a letter from John Downs in Philadelphia to Mr. Brown." Is this Lucy Jackson Brown or the Addison Browns of Brattleboro?

(9) Journal, I, 40-43. Whom did T. have in mind when he wrote the poem "Friendship"?

(10) Was T. ill at all between October, 1859 and December, 1860?

(11) G. W. Cooke speaks of T's thoughtful care of an elderly woman. Who was she?

(12) In the same article (INDEPENDENT for Dec. 10, 1895), Cooke purports to present the contrasting opinions of two people who knew Thoreau. Who were they?

(13) From whom did T. borrow the axe to build his Walden cabin? In various places Emerson, Alcott and Channing have all been named.

(14) Journal for April 16, 1857 mentions "Stewart, Collier, and Pulsifer" as "The Walkers," with Emerson, Channing, and Thoreau. Who are these men?

(15) In the Journal for Dec. 1, 1856, T. says he goes not to "French's or Lovejoy's or Savery's. I can winter more to my mind amid the shrub oaks." Who or what are these names?

The expenses of printing this issue of the bulletin has been covered by the life membership of Mr. C.W. Barrett of New York City. Life membership in the Thoreau Society is \$25.00.

A WALDEN CENTENNIAL COVER.

On August 9, 1954, the centennial of the publication of WALDEN, Mr. Ralph Chapman, 8 Cherry St., Brattleboro, Vt., mailed from Walden, Vermont, some covers with special cachet portrait of Thoreau and appropriate commentary. If you are interested in obtaining one of these, send 10¢ (to cover the cost of printing) and a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Mr. Chapman, and he will distribute them as long as the supply lasts. Our thanks to Mr. Chapman for his thoughtfulness.

Mr. Leonard Kleinfeld, 95-26 67th Ave., Forest Hills, N.Y., writes that he will be glad to exchange copies of his pamphlet chronology of the life of Thoreau for other books or pamphlets by or about Thoreau. Write to him directly for details if you are interested.

ADDITIONS TO THE THOREAU BIBLIOGRAPHY

Angier, Bradford. "Woodland Retreat" THE BEAVER. June, 1954. pp. 38-42. Life in the Canadian wilderness inspired by T.

Allison, Elliott. "Thoreau in Vermont" VERMONT LIFE, IX (Autumn, 1954), 11-13. The first thorough treatment of T's 1856 visit to Brattleboro. Copies may be obtained from the magazine, Montpelier, Vt., for 35¢.

Anon. HENRY DAVID THOREAU: THE MAN WHO MOULDED THE MAHATMA'S MIND. New Delhi: Careers Institute, n.d.

Although this 48-page anonymous study which attempts to synthesize the ideas of Thoreau and Gandhi is based on limited sources--the Thoreau biographies by Canby and Krutch and Gandhi's own AUTOBIOGRAPHY, the parallels of thought and action of "two of the greatest men of modern times" are simply and explicitly stated. It is disappointing, however, that the Indian author did not explore unpublished Gandhi manuscripts to add to our information about the literary influence of Thoreau upon Gandhi.--George Hendrick.

----. "Thoreau's Hut at Walden Pond." West Concord, Mass.: J. Ritchie, (1954?). A water-color drawing of the Walden hut.

Burns, E. McN. DAVID STARR JORDAN: PROPHET OF FREEDOM. Stanford, 1953. Much on the influence of T. on the California educator.

CHARLOTTESVILLE DAILY PROGRESS. "Henry David Thoreau Exhibit at UVA's Alderman Library." June 19, 1954. p. 2. Lengthy account of centennial exhibition.

Clark, Henry Hayden, ed. TRANSITIONS IN AMERICAN LITERARY HISTORY. Durham: Duke, 1954. 479pp. Much on T's position in American literature, particularly in Alexander Kern's excellent essay, "The Rise of Transcendentalism."

CONCORD JOURNAL. "Antiquarian Shows Treasures for 'Walden' 1854-1954 Anniversary." July 8, 1954. pp. 1, 8. Account of Concord Antiquarian Society centennial exhibition.

----- "Thoreau Society Planning Special 'Walden' Meeting." July 8, 1954. Announcement of annual meeting.

Condry, William. THOREAU. London: Witherby, 1954. 114pp. (Published in the U.S. by New York: Philosophical Library, 1954. \$3.50.)

The first volume in the new English "Great Naturalists" Series, it is written by a Welsh nature warden. It is brief, to the point, and well-written, though no attempt is made to add any new facts to our knowledge of Thoreau's life. Although the emphasis is quite naturally placed on Thoreau's interest in nature, Mr. Condry has not neglected Thoreau as a philosopher and literary figure, and he has not fallen into some of the misinterpretations of the Canby and other biographies. Altogether it makes a good introduction to Thoreau.

----- The Same. TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT. Review. Sept. 3, 1954. p. 559.

Dedmond, Francis B. "Economic Protest in Thoreau's JOURNAL" STUDIA NEOPHILOLOGICA, XXVI (1954), 65-76. "When Thoreau had his eye on economic conditions and institutions, he could not help but be pessimistic; but when he thought of man with all his possibilities and potentialities, his Transcendental optimism assured him that there still remained some hope of a better world."

Ellis, Charles Mayo (?). AN ESSAY ON TRANSCENDENTALISM. Edited by Walter Harding. Gainesville, Fla. Scholar's Facsimiles & Reprints, 1954. 104pp. \$4.00.

A reprint of a rare anonymous defense of Transcendentalism, originally printed in Boston in 1842. While Thoreau is not mentioned specifically except in the editor's introduction, the essay gives an excellent summary of the beliefs of members of the movement of which Thoreau was a part.

Fussell, Edwin S. EDWIN ARLINGTON ROBINSON: THE LITERARY BACKGROUND OF A TRADITIONAL POET. Berkeley: Univ. of Calif. Press, 1954. Much on Robinson's interest in T.

Guillet, Edwin C. "Thoreau's Philosophy" TORONTO GLOBE & MAIL. March ?, 1945. A brief letter to the editor commending T's philosophy.

Jones, Joseph, ed. TRIAL INDEX TO THOREAU'S WALDEN. Austin, Texas, 16pp. Dittographed, 1954. For further information see note in this bulletin.

Kuyk, D. A., Jr. "A Thoreau Exhibition" RICHMOND TIMES DISPATCH. June 20, 1954. p. f3. A lengthy account of the Univ. of Va. Library centennial exhibition.

Liddell, Bettie Cassie. "Gardener at Walden." CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR. May ?, 1954. A poem on T.

Lucas, Alec. "Thoreau, Field Naturalist." UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO QUARTERLY, XXIII (April, 1954), 227-232.

"Thoreau is both philosopher and scientist--a field naturalist, one of the forerunners of an increasing number of people who today visit the woods and fields simply for the personal pleasure of quiet hours spent in learning something about the plants and animals they find there."

Copies may be obtained from the magazine, Toronto, Canada, for \$1.00. Milne, Lorus J. and Margery J. "Henry David Thoreau" in FAMOUS NATURALISTS. New York: Dodd, Mead, 1952. A children's biographical sketch. NEW YORK TIMES. "Group Honors Thoreau." July 11, 1954. Account of T. Society annual meeting.

Norman, Charles. TO A DIFFERENT DRUM: THE STORY OF HENRY DAVID THOREAU. New York, Harper, 1954. 113pp. \$2.50.

Fourteen years ago Hildegard Hawthorne wrote a young people's biography of Thoreau, CONCORD'S HAPPY REBEL. It was a readable volume, but many of us felt it reflected too strongly against Thoreau's basic ideas. Now Charles Norman has attempted a young people's biography. We wish we could be enthusiastic, for there is a need for such a book, but so far as we are concerned, Mr. Norman has failed. He has obviously done a great deal of background reading in Thoreau's works, the standard biographies, and the memoirs of Thoreau's friends. But he has failed to assimilate the material, quoting great junks verbatim that are far beyond the vocabulary and interest of a school boy. And, what is worse, he has ignored recent research on Thoreau's life and so has perpetuated many legends about Thoreau that have long since been proved false. I am afraid this book would drive young people away from Thoreau instead of toward him. It's too bad.

Rich, Stephen G. "Thoreau" NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW. Sept. 12, 1954. A letter to the editor on the pronunciation of T's name.

Sinks, Don. A drawing of Thoreau at his Walden cabin. CHICAGO TRIBUNE MAGAZINE OF BOOKS. Aug. 8, 1954. p. 1. A full-page colored illustration.

Thomas, W. Stephen. "His Words Live and Inspire." ROCHESTER (N.Y.) DEMOCRAT AND CHRONICLE. May 12, 1953. A column on T.

----- REPORT ON A PRELIMINARY MEETING AT THE ROCHESTER MUSEUM OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, JULY 8, 1954 TO FORM THE ROCHESTER CHAPTER OF THE THOREAU SOCIETY. Rochester, N.Y., mimeographed, 1954. 5pp. A detailed account of the organizational meeting of this new chapter. People in the Rochester area interested in word of future meetings should write to Mr. Thomas at the museum.

Thoreau, Henry David. THE CONCORD AND MERRIMACK RIVERS. Arranged with notes by Dudley C. Lunt and illustrated by Henry Bugbee Kane. Boston: Little, Brown, 1954. 268pp. \$4.50.

Messrs. Lunt and Kane continue the editing and illustrating of Thoreau's works which they started several years ago for the W. W. Norton Co. in a volume to match that in format, design, and concept. Here they have reduced both the contents and the title of Thoreau's first book approximately one third. They have removed all the extraneous essays which Thoreau so gratuitously inserted into the original text. Ordinarily we are in haste to disavow such violation of old classics, but we readily admit here that they have made an improvement. "The Concord and Merrimack Rivers" is a

much more readable volume than the original book. It flows smoothly, with no snags or sandbars in the way. It reveals itself as one of the finest of all travel books--as H. M. Tomlinson once called it. It is not, however, as its editor claims, the first edition to so unclutter the text. In 1937, when H. S. Canby edited the omnibus volume *THE WORKS OF THOREAU* for Houghton Mifflin, he made a similar reduction of the text. However, Mr. Lunt's edition does have helpful explanatory notes and the superb illustrations by Mr. Kane.

Thoreau, Henry David. "Inspiration." *CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR*. July 29, 1954. A reprinting of T's poem in part.

----- "Paroles vieilles d'un siecle ...et pourtant." *L'UNIQUE* (Orleans, France), April, 1954. A French translation of T's Journal entry for July 21, 1851.

----- Receipt for payment for estimating the area of the town of Lincoln, Mass. Aug. 31, 1860. Facsimile reproduction of original MS in *BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE TOWN OF LINCOLN MASSACHUSETTS 1754-1954*. p. 12.

Transtromer, Tomas. "Ode to Thoreau" *WESTERN HUMANITIES REVIEW*, VIII (Spring, 1954), 86. A poem.

Zimmer, F. "Which Way to Walden Pond?" *NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW*. June 6, 1954. p. 2. A cartoon.

CENTENNIAL ESSAYS ON THOREAU'S WALDEN

(Editor's note: So many essays and editorials have appeared commemorating the centennial of the publication of Thoreau's *WALDEN*, that we are listing them here together, chiefly without comment, to save space.)

Albrecht, Dan. "Home Town Musings" *JOLIET* (Ill.) *HERALD NEWS*. March 24, 1954.

Babcock, Frederic. "100th Year of the 'Solitary Rebel's' Immortal 'Walden'" *CHICAGO TRIBUNE MAGAZINE OF BOOKS*. Aug. 8, 1954. p. 3.

Basile, Martha; Dean Soule; Robert Downey; Sondra Olsen, and David Waite. "Transcript of Students' 'Walden' Story Given at Concord High Graduation." *CONCORD* (Mass.) *ENTERPRISE*. June 24, 1954. Complete transcription of the commemorative exercises.

Canby, Henry Siddell. "'Walden' One Hundred Years Later." *SATURDAY REVIEW*. Aug. 7, 1954. pp. 7-8, 40-1.

Chapman, Ralph. "Birthday of a Book." *BRATTLEBORO* (Vt.) *DAILY REFORMER*. Aug. 9, 1954. p. 4. A guest editorial.

Clune, Henry W. "A Message to Heed." *ROCHESTER* (N.Y.) *DEMOCRAT CHRONICLE*. July 15, 1954. p. 19.

Cunningham, Nora B. "'Walden,' Published a Century Ago, Is As Meaningful as When It Was Written." *KANSAS CITY* (Mo.) *TIMES*. Aug. 28, 1954. p. 32.

Davies, John. "Centennial of Thoreau's 'Walden'" *VEGETARIAN NEWS* (London, Eng.), XXXIII (Summer, 1954), 60-1.

Dedmond, Francis B. "100 Years of *WALDEN*" *CONCORD* (Mass.) *JOURNAL*. June 24, 1954. p. 1, 12. (We understand this was reprinted in the *BOSTON GLOBE*.)

Frank, Waldo. "Thoreau's 'Walden' One Hundred Years." *NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW*. Aug. 8, 1954. p. 7.

Frost, Robert and Reginald Cook. "Thoreau's 'Walden'" *LISTENER* (London, Eng.), LII (Aug. 26, 1954), 319-320. Transcript of a BBC broadcast.

Gray, Leonard. "Thoreau's Famed 'Walden'" *WORCESTER* (Mass.) *TELEGRAM*. July 4, 1954.

Harding, Walter. "A Century of Walden" *COLORADO QUARTERLY*, III (Autumn, 1954) 186-199. An analysis of *WALDEN* and its influence over the last century.

Kloss, Gerald. "The Philosopher at Walden." *MILWAUKEE JOURNAL*. Sept. 3, 1954.

Knox, John B. "Thoreau's Walden Still Important in World Affairs." *WINONA* (Minn.) *DAILY NEWS*. Sept. 20, 1954. Reprinted under varying titles in *DALLAS* (Tex.) *MORNING NEWS*, Aug. 8, 1954 and *TRENTON* (N.J.) *TIMES-ADVERTISER*, Aug. 29, 1954.

Leary, Lewis. "A Century of 'Walden'" *NATION*, CLXXIX (Aug. 7, 1954), 114-5.

Merrifield, Richard. "100 Years After." *YANKEE MAGAZINE*. July, 1954. pp. 68-9.

OREGONIAN (Portland, Ore.) "Homily." Aug. 13, 1954.

P(otter), G(eorge) W. "He Marched Alone" *PROVIDENCE* (R.I.) *JOURNAL*. Sept. 11, 1954. Reprinted in *PROVIDENCE BULLETIN* for the same day.

Price, Lucien. "Concord's Non-Conformist" *BOSTON* (Mass.) *GLOBE*. Aug. 8, 1954. p. 20.

Schott, Webster. "Materialism Casts Its Spell on Pond Where Thoreau Sought the Ideal Life." *KANSAS CITY* (Mo.) *STAR*. Aug. 28, 1954.

Schuchat, Theodor. "'Walden,' 100 Years Old, Still Has a Word for the Wise." *WASHINGTON* (D.C.) *POST*. Aug. 9, 1954. p. 9.

W., C. "The Man Who Knows His Village." *FREEDOM* (London, Eng.) XV (Aug. 21, 1954), 2.

White, E.B. "Walden--1954" *YALE REVIEW*, XLIV (Sept. 1954), 13-22. A delightful essay on the significance of T today.

We are indebted to the following for information used in this bulletin:

R. Adams, H. Adel, T. Bailey, H. Bierce, R. Chapman, J. Crossett, W. Conant, L. Chirin, C. Davenport, J. Davies, F. Dedmond, L. Digby, E. Fletcher, F. Geiger, L. Gray, G. Hendrick, W. Houston, J. Jones, H. Kane, N. Lehrman, A. Lownes, D. Moure, E. Oliver, E. Perry, R. Robbins, R. Sills, W. Sutton, A. Wesley, R. Wheeler, E. Wilson.

The Thoreau Society, Inc. is an informal organization of students and followers of Henry David Thoreau. Its *BULLETINS* are published quarterly; its *BOOKLETS*, occasionally. Annual meetings are held in Concord, Mass. each July. Officers of the society are Raymond Adams (Chapel Hill, N.C.), president; Mrs. Caleb Wheeler (Concord, Mass.), vice-president; Walter Harding (Charlottesville, Va.), secretary-treasurer. Annual membership is one dollar; life-membership, \$25.00. Communications concerning membership or publications should be addressed to WALTER HARDING, 505 CABELL HALL, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA.